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GENEALOGY.

CORBIN GENEALOGY.

(Continued)

Some of the letters give an insight into the management of Virginia estates. One dated Jan. 1, 1759, was to Mr. James Temple, who was to be general manager of Col. Corbin's plantations on the upper Rapahannock. It is as follows:

"As it will be necessary to say something to you and to suggest to you my thoughts upon the business you have undertaken, I shall endeavor to be particular and circumstantial.

1st. The care of the negroes is the first thing to be recommended that you give me timely notice of their wants that they may be provided with all necessaries; The Breeding wenchers more particularly, you must instruct the overseers to be kind and indulgent to, and not force them when with child upon any service or hardship that will be injurious to them and that they have every necessary when in that condition that is needful for them, and the children to be well looked after and to give them every Spring and Fall the Jerusalem oak seed for a week together and that none of them suffer in time of sickness for want of proper care. Observe a prudent and a watchful conduct over the overseers that they attend their business with diligence, keep the negroes in good order and enforce obedience by the example of their own industry, which is a more effectual method in every respect of succeeding and making good crops than hurry and severity. The ways of industry are constant and regular, not to be in a hurry at one time and do nothing at another, but to be always usefully and steadily employed. A man who carries on business in this manner will be prepared for every incident that happens. He will see what work may be proper at the distance of sometime and he gradually and leisurely providing for it, by this foresight he will make everything easy to the People, he will never be in confusion himself and his business instead of a labor will be a pleasure to him.

2nd. Next to the care of the negroes is the care of stock and supposing the necessary care taken, I shall only here mention the use to be made of them for the improvement of the Tobo. grounds, Let them be constantly and regularly pen'd, Let the size of the pens be 1000 Tobo. hills for 100 cattle, and so in proportion for a greater or less quantity, and the pens moved once a week, by this practice steadily

pursued a considerable quantity of land may be provided at Moss' Neck without clearing, and as I intend this seat of land to be a settlement for one of my sons, I would be very sparing of the woods and that piece of woods that lies on the left hand of the Ferry Road must not be cut on any account. A proper use of the cattle will answer every purpose of making Tobo. without the destruction commonly of the timbered land and as you will see this estate once a fortnight, you may easily discover if they have been neglectful of Penning the cattle and moving the cowpens.

Take an exact account of all the negroes and stocks at each plantation and send to me and tho' once a year may be sufficient to take this acct. yet it will be advisable to see them once a month at least; as such an inspection will fix more closely the overseers attentions to those points.

As complaints have been made by the negroes in respect to their provisioning corn, I must desire you to put that matter under such a Regulation as your own prudence will dictate to you: The allowance to be sure is plentiful and they ought to have their Belly full but care must be taken with this plenty that no waste is committed; you must let Hampton know that the care of the negroes' corn, sending it to mill; always to be provided with meal that every one may have enough and that regularly at stated times is a duty as much incumbent upon him as any other.

As the corn at Moss's Neck is always ready money it will not be advisable to be at much expense in raising hogs, the shattered corn will probably be enough for this purpose, When I receive your acct. of the spare corn at Mosse's Neck and Richland which I hope will be from King and Queen Court I shall give orders to Col. Tucker to send for it.

Let me be acquainted with every incident that and let me have timely notice of everything that is wanted that it may be provided. To imploy the Fall and winter well is the foundation of a successful crop in the summer. You will therefore animate the overseers to great diligence that their work may be in proper forwardness and not have that to do in the spring that ought to be done in the winter. There is business sufficient for every season of the year and to prevent the work of one season from interfering with the work of another depend upon the care of the overseer.

The time of sowing Tobo. seed, the order the plant patch ought to be in and the use of the wheat straw, I have not touched upon, it being too obvious to be overlooked.

Supposing the corn now laid and the Tobo. ripe for Housing; to cut the corn tops and gather the blades in proper time is included under the care of cattle, their preservation in the winter depending upon good fodder. I shall therefore confine myself to Tobo. Tobo.

hhds. should always be provided the 1st week in September; every morning of that month is fit for striking and striping, every morning therefore of this month they should strike as much Tobo. as they can strip whilst the dew is upon the grounds and what they strip in the morning must be stem'd in the Evening; this method constantly practiced the Tobacco will be all prised before Christmas. Weigh well and at least one hhd. in ten gained by finishing the Tobo. thus early.

You shall never want either for my advice or assistance, these instructions will hold good for Poplar Neck, and Portobacco and Perhaps Spotsylvania too.

I now send my two carpenters Mack and Abraham to Mosse's Neck to build a good barn, mend up the quarters and get as many staves and heading as will be sufficient for next years Tobo. HHds; I expect they will complete the whole that is necessary upon the estate by the last of March."

Col. Corbin's letter book shows many examples of the era of extravagance which set in in Virginia about 1750 and which was injuring or ruining so many good estates and destroying the credit of formerly prosperous planters. He attributed it to the great emissions of paper money, first made necessary to carry on Virginia's part in the war against France. Over and over he argues against it. On Aug. 2nd. 1764, writing to Edward Athawes and Son, of London, he said, "That imaginary wealth derived to us by the circulation of paper money was as much a Bubble, to compare small things with great, as the famous South Sea scheme was in England, every man fancied himself rich and lived accordingly, the consequence of which you may now guess".

On Aug. 13, 1764, to Philip Ludwell, "The credit of the country seems to be at a very low ebb, the strongest efforts of industry with its attendant virtue frugality, can alone retrieve it, by long and habitual practice; but if luxury still prevails and extravagance continues, all hopes of its recovery will be lost for this generation, the next may take warning from the last and restore to its full lustre that precious jewel, which their degenerate ancestors considered only as a rough pebble. To revive credit to give a brilliancy to this pebble will I believe be attempted the next Assembly".

Col. Corbin was always loyal to the British crown and the disturbances following the passage of the Stamp Act troubled him greatly.

Writing to Robert Dinwiddie Nov. 10, 1765, he says: "Mr. Mercer, distributor of stamps, has been forced to escape his office. This resignation has shut up the courts of justice and thrown everything into confusion. Every evil that can be apprehended is to be dreaded from the present temper and disposition of the people in opposition to this Act of Parliament. If it is not repealed God only knows what the consequences may be."

To the Hanburys, Oct. 25, 1765: "From the present appearance the peace and quiet of the country depend upon a repeal of the act."

To Jos. Roberts, Oct. 25, 1765, he wrote that Virginia had been thrown into "the utmost confusion, every evil that can be apprehended is to be dreaded from the present temper and disposition of the people in opposition to this Act of Parliament, when they find they can thus avoid the payment of one tax they may probably plead and exemption from all".

To Col. Ludwell, again, Nov. 16, 1765, "To give you a detail of affairs, to describe the present unhappy situation of our country would fill you, as it has and does me with the most melancholy reflections. To consider the best order'd Cotaury and the most loyal People arise in opposition to an act of Parl't. and force Mr. Mercer, the distributor of stamps to resign his office; to see the courts of justice shut up and confusion gaining ground, is the light in which you must view our unhappy Country; when the laws have lost their force every evil that can be apprehended is to be dreaded. I pray to God to avert the danger that threatens and from his goodness to remove our confusion and restore the order of a just and free, tho dependent Government. Public distress naturally produces private misfortunes; it is impossible for the most cautious, the prudentest man alive to be prepared and properly guarded to avoid them".

To John Roberts, Dec. 16, 1765, "The opposition to the Stamp Act is not in the least abated, the Infatuation is spread quite through the Continent and the People seem ripe for any mischief".

Col. Corbin played no conspicuous part in the next ten years; but at the last moment tried to reconcile the Governor, Lord Dunmore, and the revolting Virginians.

On June 25, 1775, Lord Dunmore left Williamsburg and took refuge on an English ship. He wrote to Col. Corbin as follows:

"To the Hon'ble Richard Corbin at Laneville
Off Norfolk on Board the William
7 Feb. 5th 1775

Dear Sir:

A few days ago I received yours of the 10th Ultio. informing me that notwithstanding your private Business required you present at Home (England), yet you did not choose to go, fearing it might not be agreeable to some of your Countrymen in their present mode of thinking, but that you had requested your friend to mention your situation to the Convention at Richmond, and that you find it agreeable to them that you should go home; I am sure if that is the Case, and you are still of the opinion that your private Business requires your presence, I know of nothing that need detain you a single moment here, on the contrary I think if there is but a chance that your going

can be of the smallest service to this your native land, nothing ought to prevent you, and if my concurrence is necessary, you have it with all my heart, and from my Soul wishing that you could be the means of reconciling these very unfortunate difference between two Countries, and wishing most sincerely that on your return you may find this at present unhappy and most wretchedly deluded Country, in the full exercise of its late happy constitution & Government, which I know is your sincere wish, & must be of every real well wisher to His Country, but can be of none more than of your.

Most obt. & very Hble. Servt.,

Dunmore".

On Jan. 22, 1776, from on board the *Dunmore* Lord Dunmore again wrote to Corbin urging him to use his efforts for a reconciliation. With the consent of the Convention, Corbin went aboard Dunmore's ship; but nothing came of the interview. During the rest of his life he lived in retirement at home. Though some of his sons were in trouble on account of their loyalty (or Toryism) Col. Corbin was never molested.

His high character is shown by what his contemporaries said of him. Ralph Wormeley (another loyalist), writing in 1783 to Charles James Fox, said, "Richard Corbin was one of the Kings Council and his Majesty's Receiver General of Quit Rents, as faithful a servant as the crown ever had, he is or rather was, under the former Government, a man of fortune, influence, and family".

His son Francis Corbin, writing to Tench Coxe, of Philadelphia in April 1815, says, "After the departure of Lord Dunmore, the King *meru motu*, appointed my father Governor of Virginia, but when he received the commission it was too late for his conciliatory wisdom to do anything." In the same letter he speaks of an interview with General Washington in 1783, when the latter asked after his father. Washington asked him, "How was his worthy old friend his father," and when told he was well said, "I am glad to hear it; he is a worthy man and one of the best friends I have ever had." Farther on Francis Corbin describes his presentation at Court. The King asked him when he had heard from his father, and added, "I hope he is well, he is a good man—a good one—the best subject I ever had in America". The same writer also says that Dr. Franklin, who personally knew his father, said, "He was one of the wisest men we had".

Richard Corbin married Elizabeth, daughter of John Tayloe, of "Mt. Airy", Richmond County. The *Virginia Gazette*, July 29, 1737, contained a notice: "Mr. Richard Corbin, eldest son of Col. Gawin Corbin, was lately married to Miss Betty Tayloe, daughter of Hon. John Tayloe, of his Majesty's Council of this Colony". John Tayloe in his will dated Jan. 3, 1744, gave his daughter Betty Corbin, £350 sterling, which,

with what he had already given her would make her portion £2000 sterling. He also gave her and his son-in-law Richard Corbin, £200 sterling additional.

Richard and Elizabeth (Tayloe) Corbin had issue:

16. Gawin, of whom later
17. John Tayloe, of whom later
18. Richard, born 1751, living 1783, died unmarried;
19. Thomas of "Laneville" born 1755, living 1783, died unmarried. Ralph Wormeley, writing, Aug. 1783, to Charles James Fox, says that Mr. Thomas Corbin will deliver his letter. He (Corbin) has been in Britain the past five years and in the army. He returned to Virginia in 1783 and was again compelled to leave the country. It is believed he came back in a year or two.
20. Francis, of whom later
21. Elizabeth, married (his 2nd wife) Carter Braxton, of "Newington", King and Queen County, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. On June 18, 1760, Richard Corbin writing to the Hanburys, of London, stated that he would draw on them for £1000 sterling, payable to Mr. Carter Braxton, as his daughter's marriage portion.
22. Alice, living 1783, died unmarried. She was the "Miss Alice Corbin", a friend of the young Thomas Jefferson, who is several times referred to in his letters.
23. Letitia, living, unmarried, 1783.

(To be continued)

NEWTON OF NORFOLK.

(Continued)

Children:

6. Elizabeth³ born July 22, 1707, married — Benbow, and lived in London, England.
7. George³, born Feb. 26, 1712; died May 17, 1719.
8. Thomas³, born March 14, 1713; died Dec. 13, 1794; married Amy, daughter of Col. John Hutchings.
9. Lemuel³, born June 22, 1715; died in infancy.
10. Wilson³, born April 9, 1718, died in 1763; married Rebecca Elligood. Wilson Newton was mayor of Norfolk in 1751 and 1760. The following is an abstract of his will: Will of Wilson Newton of the Borough of Norfolk, Merchant, dated 27 Aug., and proved 18 Nov., 1763. To wife Rebecca for life